



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,582 .	07/07/2003	Richard A. Darrell	020375-040200	8946

20350 7590 12/16/2004

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
EIGHTH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

SUBRAMANIAN, NARAYANSWAMY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,582

Applicant(s)

DARRELL, RICHARD A.

Examiner

Narayanswamy Subramanian

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/13/03, 2/2/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Original claims 1-20 have been examined. The objections and rejections are stated below.

#### ***Drawings***

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings, which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 11-20 recite the limitation "System". It is not clear if the word "system" refers to a method or an apparatus. Clarification is required. Further in claims 1-16 the terms "the customer computer" or "the customer's signature" or "the customer" appear. It is not clear if the Applicants intended to use the term "consumer" instead of the term "customer" in these claims. The terms "the customer computer", "the customer's signature" and "the customer" in the claims have no antecedent basis. Clarification is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 11-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houvener et al (US Patent 6,397,194 B1).

With reference to claims 1, 11 and 18, Houvener discloses a method and system of presenting an image of a receipt to a consumer, the method comprising: electronically capturing a receipt (See Houvener Column 1 lines 15-25); storing the receipt at a host computer system (See Houvener 1 Column lines 15-25 and Column 5 lines 37-41); receiving a request at the host computer system from a computer of the consumer to display the image of the receipt (See Houvener Column 10 lines 48-52, the user is interpreted to include the consumer); and transmitting an electronic file comprising the image of the receipt for display at the customer computer (See Houvener Column 10 lines 58-62, the display device is interpreted to include display at the customer computer). The host system, interface, a user computer and means for performing the steps of the method are inherent in the disclosure of Houvener.

With reference to claims 2 and 12, Houvener teaches the step wherein the receipt comprises a credit card receipt (See Houvener Column 2 lines 16-25).

With reference to claim 3, Houvener teaches the step wherein the receipt comprises an image of the consumer's signature (See Houvener Column 1 lines 15-25).

With reference to claim 4, Houvener teaches the step wherein the receipt is printed on paper at a point of sale and electronically capturing comprises scanning an image of the receipt to an electronic file (See Houvener Column 2 lines 23-27 and Column 1 lines 19-25).

With reference to claims 5 and 13, Houvener teaches the step wherein electronically capturing comprises receiving a file from a point-of-sale device, wherein the file comprises an image of the customer's signature (See Houvener Column 3 lines 24-48).

With reference to claim 14, Houvener teaches the step wherein the image capture device is further configured to convert image information captured from a receipt into data (See

Art Unit: 3624

Houvener Column 1 lines 15-25 and Column 3 lines 24-36), whereby the data may appear in an electronic image of the receipt as a selectable link relating to the data (Hyperlinks to data are old and well known in the art. These links help provide more detailed information for items in a summary).

With reference to claim 15, Houvener teaches the step wherein the interface is configured to provide communication between the host computer system and at least one point-of-sale device (See Houvener Column 5 lines 42-45).

7. Claims 6-10, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houvener et al (US Patent 6,397,194 B1) in view of Kolling et al (US Patent 6,385,595 B1).

With reference to claims 6-10, 16, 17, 19 and 20, Houvener teaches a method and system of claims 1, 11 and 18 as discussed above.

Houvener does not explicitly teach the features included in these claims.

Kolling teaches the steps wherein the file comprises programming that causes at least one credit card receipt item to appear as a selectable link to more detailed information about the item including receiving information from the consumer computer that defines the at least one category (See Kolling Figure 12 Column 31 lines 38-40 and 48-49, selection of a link or button implies receiving information from the user about one category); receiving a selection of the item from the customer, consulting a database for information about the item and transmitting a file comprising the information to the customer (See Kolling Figure 14 Column 31 lines 53-58); receiving a request at the host computer from the consumer computer to display a categorical listing of items purchased by the consumer, wherein the items are comprised by a plurality of receipts, for each of the plurality of receipts, consulting a database for information relating to

Art Unit: 3624

each item of the receipt, using the information to sort the items into categories and transmitting an electronic file from the host computer system to the consumer computer, wherein the file comprises a listing of the items sorted into at least one category for display at the consumer computer (See Kolling Figures 12-14); a product information database for storing product information that is retrievable via an identifier relating to an item ((See Kolling Figures 12-14, the database is interpreted to include a product information database and clicking on the invoice button or link retrieves information about the product); identifier is selected from the group consisting of UPC and SKU (old and well known in the art. These codes uniquely identify a product provide a shortcut for identifying the product); means for obtaining product information relating to an item on the receipt including categorizing a plurality of items on a receipt according to the product information (See Kolling Figures 12-14, Utilities, banking, Gas& Electric and Cable are the various categories and viewing invoice provides information about the products on the invoice).

Both Houvener and Kolling are concerned with the problem of storing and providing receipts to a user of the system. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include teachings of Kolling to the disclosure of Houvener. The combination of the teaching taken as a whole suggests that users would have benefited from being able to obtain more transactional information about the products/services they purchased in a timely manner without having to save their paper receipts.

### ***Conclusion***

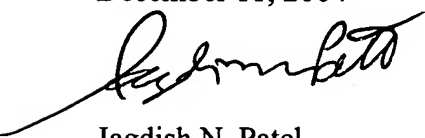
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 3624

(703) 305-4878. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703) 305-7687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

N. Subramanian  
December 11, 2004



Jagdish N. Patel  
Primary Examiner